

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02237 091548Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /044 W

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R 082200Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7983

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2237

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS SHUM ES

SUBJ: FAPU CONTINUES OCCUPATION OF RED CROSS OFFICE IN SAN
SALVADOR, ANNOUNCE HUNGER STRIKE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2145

1. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED POPULAR ACTION FRONT (FAPU), ON MAY 5 THE RED CROSS IN SAN SALVADOR, AFTER A UNANIMOUS DECISION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE SALVADORAN RED CROSS, MOVED ITS EMERGENCY, AMBULANCE, FIRST AID, AND OTHER SERVICES TO OTHER, TEMPORARY LOCATIONS. ON MAY 6 THE OCCUPANTS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE STATING THEY WERE GOING ON A HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE FREED.

2. LABOR OFFICER, WHO PASSED BY RED CROSS OFFICE ON MAY 4, REPORTED THAT FAPU OCCUPIERS HAD PUT BANNERS ON BUILDING STATING "FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND
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"FREE MANUEL RIVERA". (RIVERA'S NAME HAS APPEARED ON MANY LISTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; HE IS A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION "ANDES 21 DE JUNIO".) HE SAID THAT THE OCCUPANTS HAD SET UP A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, OVER WHICH MUSIC WAS BLARING, INTERRUPTED PERIODICALLY BY ANNOUNCEMENTS. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT TRAFFIC WAS MOVING ALONG NORMALLY

NEAR THE BUILDING AND THAT PEDESTRIANS WERE GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AND SEEMED TO BE IGNORING THE FAPU OCCUPANTS.

3. IN ONE OF ITS COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED IN THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLO", FAPU STATED: "WE CONDEMN THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS FRMOGOGIC POLICY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH NOT WITHSTANDING THE CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS THAT CARTER SAYS HE IS DEFENDING, HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP OF EL SALVADOR, WHICH IS AS BAD AS THAT OF SOMOZA IN NICARAGUA AND THAT OF PINOCHET IN CHILE."

4. IN THE MEANTIME, ON THE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY, MAY 5, MEMBERS OF FAPU PEACEFULLY GAVE UP THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE RED CROSS OFFICE IN SANTA ANA. RED CROSS OFFICIALS THERE WERE READY TO MOVE TO A TEMPORARY LOCATION WHEN THEY MADE A LAST-MINUTE AGREEMENT WITH THE FAPU OCCUPANTS. THE OCCUPANTS WERE TAKEN IN RED CROSS AMBULANCES TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY, WITHOUT APPARENTLY BEING MOLESTED BY SECURITY FORCES. DEVINE

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